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September, 1919

Volume I

Number 2

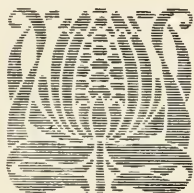
The Rhodes Family in America

PUBLISHED BY

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1208 Merchants Nat. Bank Bldg.

Los Angeles, California



P U R P O S E

To secure the cooperation of all the members of the family in the preparation of a history, biography and genealogy of all branches of the family in America and their foreign ancestry.

Published Three Times Each Year

Subscription Fifty Cents Per Year

THE FAMILY OF RHODES

"Birth conveys no merit, but much duty, to its inheritor."
—Lord Clarendon.

Froissart is authority for the statement that "The de Rhodes, hereditary Knights of Flanders, came over to England with the Earl of Flanders and Tofti, Harold's brother, to assist William the Conqueror." (Volume I, page 121.)

Origin of the English House

The Domesday book records the fact that two warriors accompanying the conqueror, Willemus and Hugh by name, were granted, doubtless as a reward for their services, the "Moiety of Rodes." This estate was located where the little village of Rode is now situated, in the County of Chester, near the present silk-producing center of Macclesfield, about 40 miles southeast from Liverpool.

Willemus had a son, Michael, who was known as Michael de Rodes, and his descendants may be traced through the Domesday book, tax rolls, civil and court records, to the present time, carrying that name in some form of the many spellings common to history.

Origin of the French House

These brothers came over between 1066 and 1100. Hugh disappears from English records soon after their arrival. It is presumed that he returned to Normandy.

At about that time the Counts de Rodez appear in France, their founder being "Hugh I," Count de Rodez, and their seat the town of "Rodes" in Averon, Languedoc.

The town of Rodes is now a prosperous one of about twelve thousand population, is the capital of the Department of Avignon, and lies about three hundred miles southeast from Paris.

Origin of the Palatinate Family

During the reign of Louis XIV (1643 to 1715) a large number of Huguenots fled from France to Germany, particularly to the Palatinate, which was a German state until 1620, when it was divided into the Bavarian and the lower, or Rhine Palatinate.

At that time the name of Rohde, Rhodes, or other forms of its spelling, appears and continues to appear thereafter in the records of vital history of those countries. The coats of arms of the Palatinate families are a true composite of the German, and the French coast of Rodez. Descendants of these families are found in America.

Development of the English House

Froissart, volume 10, page 354: "The counts de'Armagnach and Rhodes came from Normandy with Henry II and Margaret, his mother."

From Burke's "Commoners of Great Britain" we learn that, the family of Rhodes or Rhoades is of great antiquity, having flourished for several centuries in the Counties of Nottingham, Lincoln, York and Derby.

"The first settler on record in England, of this family, was Gerard de Rodes, a feudal baron, the capital seat of whose barony was Horn Castle in Lincolnshire. Camden says Horn Castle was a soke or seignory of thirteen lordships and Gerard de Rodes was, consequently, one of the greater barons; his absence as ambassador will account for his name not occurring on the Roll of Magna Charta, he 'having been sent by King John, 29th March, in the 9th year of his reign, ambassador to foreign parts.'"

"It is not known when the Baronetsy became extint, but the lands of Horn Castle were lost in the reign of Richard II." (See Camden's Britanea, Lincolnshire, page 418.)

Baron Gerard de Rodes received from Richard I the lordships of Langar and Barneston, in Nottinghamshire. They were confirmed in him by King John.

Thornton, writing in 1677, says these lordships were united before Norman times, having been first granted to William Peverill, "Peverill of the Peaks." They later passed into possession of Baron Gerard de Rodes. They were previously, at some time, owned by Earl Howe.

Baron Gerard also owned the estates of "Clifton and Wilford," of Nottinghamshire, previously owned by William Peverill. They came to him during the reign of King John. They passed to Ralph de Rodes, his son, "a very great man," who owned them during the 6th Henry III.

Clifton and Wilford passed to Gerard, Lord of Melles, at the end of the reign of Henry or beginning of that of Edward I, and he granted them to Sir Gervase de Clifton, Steward to Sir Ralph de Rodes.

The estate of Barton, owned by Baron Gerard, followed that of Clifton and Wilford.

Ann Clifton, directly descended from Sir Gervase, married Sir Francis, who married Emmie, daughter and heiress of John Cachehors or Cachehaus, of Staveley, Woodthorpe.

Of the thirteen lordships composing the soke of Horn Castle, of the family de Rodes, most of those seem to have been divided or disposed of in Nottinghamshire, and others in Yorkshire and Derby retained, and to these the principal branches of the family removed.

This seat of the family in Derbyshire was founded by William Rodes, who married Emmie, daughter and heiress of John Cachehors or Cachehaus, of Staveley, Woodthorpe.

The Derbyshire Charter, compiled by Isaac H. Jeanes, quotes: "No. 902, Sale for £17.10.0, by Henry Gray, Knight, Lord Gray of Codnor and Dame Margaret, his wife, for William Rodes (or Rodes) of Nottinghamshire, of all trees, wood, etc., lying between Botery (Butterly) Park and Codnor Park to Michaelmas, 1478. Dated April 14, Edward VI (1421) (Vol. IV, 22)."

Also: "904. Power of attorney from Robert Remstone, Esq., to Wm. Chadwyk and William Rodes to receive lands in Codnor, dated August 27, 14 Edward IV (1474) (Wall IV, 21)."

This seems to have remained the seat of the family until Barlborough Hall was built by Judge Francis Rodes, whose son, Sir John, Knight, sold Staveley Woodthorpe and made Barlborough the permanent residence.

The periods of residence on the Rhodes estates above referred to were as follows: Horn Castle, Clifton Wilford and Barton Notts., from about 1154 to 1470; Staveley Woodthorpe, Derbyshire, about 1470 to 1600; Barlborough, Derbyshire, about 1600 to the present time.

History seems to support the conclusion that:

Willemus and Hugh came to England during the Norman Conquest.

Willemus remained and through his son, Michael de Rode, established the "Moiety of Rode," their line continuing to the present time.

Hugh returned to France and established the family of the Counts de Rodez.

The French family spread to Germany and the Palatinate and established branches.

The Norman family sent its descendant, Baron Gerard de Rodes, back to England and through him an English branch was established which continues to the present date.

Representatives of all these branches have immigrated to America and to some one thereof all families carrying the name of Rhodes in this country, whatever the form of its spelling, owe their origin and can probably count the father of Willemus and Hugh as their common ancestor.



Some Ancestral Lines of the Rhoades Family in America

The accompanying chart shows in tabulated form the results of research thus far made with the purpose of establishing the foreign ancestral identity of the American branches of the Rhodes family. This is a progressive study-chart, and must not be taken as final authority upon the subject. Proofs have developed to the point of justifying this statement of facts with the qualifications hereinafter given.

Important documents referring to this subject exist in great numbers in the hands of Rhodes descendants in America. They should be brought to light and their evidence recorded in this study. That is the purpose of this publication.

The conclusions shown, while not final, are supported by historical statements which have not thus far been disproved. The present purpose is to establish final and unquestionable proof of them or to disprove them entirely. To that end correspondence is desired.

Family Establishment Prior to 1500

Four authorities are quoted for the origin and descent of the British house which sent immigrants to America. Each of these four authorities agree that their line culminates in Francis Rodes, who was a Justice of the Court of Common Pleas during the reign of Queen Elizabeth in 1585. The first three authorities differ in minor parts as to the line of descent, probably having confused the members of secondary descent with those of direct descent, in some instances. The fourth authority, made up in fact of many, parallels the other three only in the final culmination with Francis Rodes.

The first three authorities quoted take their information from the College of Heraldry of Great Britain, and that college concerns itself largely with direct lines of descent. As the direct line is broken at times and succeeded by secondary representatives of the family, probably accounting for the discrepancy, the difference between these authorities becomes of but little consequence in these studies. With regard to the fourth authority, however, there is yet much to be studied. It goes further into the record of the secondary representatives of families than the other authorities, and it is very possible that the research now under way in Great Britain may finally disclose a harmony of records. With a single exception the American families are thought to have found their ancestry in the English family subsequent to the time of Francis, which period is the one of more important consideration.

The French and Palatinate branch has been studied geographically only. Its origin is known, but the genealogy of the three brothers, Henry, Hugues and Louis, subsequent to their leaving France, has not been traced.

The Family in England from 1500 to the American Emigration

The authority for this division of the chart is the British College of Heraldry, and all the facts contained therein are duly substantiated. A number of other branches of the house of Rodes exist in Great Britain, equally well known and pedigreed, but the present studies involve no necessity of reference to them. Later studies may disclose that they, also, sent immigrants to America.

The American Family

The final purpose of this investigation is to disclose the descent of the American branches of the family of Rodes from specific foreign ancestors. In the following discussion the lines will be referred to as numbered in Bulletin No. 1.

Line No. 1, Zachariah Rhodes of Rhode Island, and Line No. 2, Henry Rhodes of Lynn. Zachariah was born in Lancashire, England, in 1603, and died in Rhode Island in 1665. Henry was born in Lancashire, England, in 1608, and died in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1675. Historians have frequently recorded them as brothers. The chart records that both were sons of Walter Rhodes (of the fourth British line, Willemus), who immigrated to America in 1620 to 1640. American history locates Henry in Lynn, Massachusetts, on or before 1637, and Zachariah in Rehobeth, Massachusetts, he having afterward been banished from that colony for "being in the way of dipping." Walter Rhodes was a prominent, though not extensively noted, citizen of Providence, Rhode Island, for a time. The proofs thus far examined support the historical statement that Henry and Zachariah are descended from Walter, but they are not conclusive, and investigation should be carried to a more definite determination.

Line No. 3, John Rhodes of Wingreaves. From the investigation thus far made there seems no reason to doubt that John of Wingreaves was descended from Francis Rhodes, but at just what point in that lineage his first ancestor is found has not yet been determined. It was formerly asserted that John of Sturton was his father, but all of the issue of John of Sturton have now been otherwise accounted for. That John of Wingreaves is descended from Francis there can be no question, and it is hoped that early investigation will disclose his first ancestor.

Line No. 5, John Rhodes of Virginia. There seems no reason to question the authorities that John of Virginia was descended from Charles, the son of John of Sturton, as shown on the chart, although absolute written record has not been found establishing that fact.

Line No. 16, Maryland, 1700. This line has not been fully organized, but its records are more or less complete.

Line No. 7, John Rhodes of Westerly, Rhode Island. His descent from Sir Edward, son of Sir Godfrey, is definitely established.

Lines Nos. 12, 13, 14 and 15 from the Palatinate. The origin of these lines in America and their place of origin abroad has been established beyond question. The link of ancestry between the time of their coming to America and the Huguenot exodus from France to the Palatinate has not been traced.

Whether the studies now under way will show the ancestry of line No. 6, John Rhoads, of North Carolina; Line No. 8, John Rhoades, of New York; Line No. 9, John Road, of Pennsylvania, and Line No. 10, Alexander Rhodes, of Connecticut, to have had their ancestry through the lines shown on the present chart, or from independent ones, is as yet unknown.

It is believed that the ancestry shown by the chart is substantially correct, and it is hoped that the present generation will persevere in its determination to finally establish all of the requisite proofs.

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